

INTIMATION.

A.S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED

VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS.

SEASON 1895-96.

Our First Supplies of these best Quality Seeds have arrived, and Orders will be executed in the sequence in which they are received as long as the supply lasts.

SEED LISTS

with HINTS FOR GARDENING have been issued and can be obtained on application.

Our Seeds are all tested before being put up in LONDON.

They are packed under our own Supervision, and the greatest care is exercised to insure protection in transit.

Savings should be made in FINE WEATHER ONLY and the remainder of the packets secured from damp, and kept in a dry place for repeat sowings.

CLAY'S FERTILIZER.

A high-class Fertilizer for Pot Plants and for use in the Garden generally.

It supplies natural nourishment to the soil, and assists the process of assimilation, thereby aiding the Plants to attain their full size, vigor, and beauty.

Sold in Tins containing 10 lbs. each. \$1.75. 25 lbs. \$3.40.

Directions for use are given on the Label.

RANSOME'S "NEW FARM" LAWN MOWERS.

The Best and Cheapest Machines in the Market. For Sale at Manufacturers' Prices.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY. Established A.D. 1861.

Hongkong, 12th August, 1895.

MARRIAGES.

On the 28th September, at the Parish Church, Ashford, Kent, by the Rev. P. F. Tindal, Vicar, MARY ISABELLA, widow of the late Dr. C. A. ANSOLO, and Miss Mary, daughter of the late Captain H. C. Munro, 2nd Royal Fusiliers.

On the 1st October, at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Gillingham, by the Rev. Canon Moore, M.A., father of the bridegroom, the Rev. HENRY MORRIS, M.A., of Kettle College, Oxford, and Miss of Tokyo, Japan, in Florence, eldest daughter of THE CHISHOLM, Esq., F.R.S., of South-side, Croydon.

DEATHS.

At his residence, on the 4th November, at 6 a.m., LOUIS MENZIES, of Alton, Germany, aged 61 years.

On the 23rd September, at 23, Penang Road, South Newmarket, MICHAEL ROONEY, aged 25, suddenly, late of Formosa.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 5TH, 1895.

It is gratifying to observe the warmth with which the proposal of the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce to send a commercial mission to China has been received. It is time that British merchants were up and doing, for while the foreign trade of China has been rapidly expanding Great Britain's share in it has been almost stationary, and in some lines shows a positive decline. Other nations have been gaining on us in the race, notably our German friends, who have adapted themselves more readily to the changing conditions and have also enjoyed an advantage in being able, by the kindness of British shipowners, to send their goods out at lower rates of freight than their British rivals. Now that China is beginning to manufacture cottons for herself the decline in the import of those goods from Great Britain is likely to become still more rapid unless steps be taken to scientifically study the capabilities of the market and to introduce new classes of goods. Much of the non-expansiveness of British trade must be attributed to errors in our commercial system, but while that is a matter for commercial men themselves to look to, political action is also required to remove the obstacles that exist to the distribution of goods. In this direction Russia is supplying us with a capital object lesson. She has taken in hand the rich but undeveloped country of Manchuria, is about to connect Port Arthur with her Trans-Siberian Railway and to build subsidiary lines in various directions for the opening up of the different districts, and by next spring we shall probably see a branch of the new Russian Bank established at Port Arthur, which place may then be considered as fairly launched on a career of progress that will rival that of San Francisco, Vancouver, and the other ports of the American "Pacific Slope." While Russia has thus been securing herself and securing material advantages England has been floundering helplessly about and is unable to secure even the treaty rights of the transit pass system in the southern provinces, much less the opening of the West River or the construction of railways. It is time that all this was altered. It is stated that the recent Franco-Chinese treaty was signed by the Chinese unwillingly and without any time being afforded them for reflection. The portions of that treaty relating to territorial concessions, it is further stated, will not be ratified, owing to the opposition of England to China ceding what was not hers to cede; but the commercial clauses will be brought into force, and are indeed being already acted upon, as the new Consul appointments show. England must follow the example of her neighbours and make China, whether willingly or unwillingly, matters not, concede such reasonable facilities as are required for the expansion and development of trade, the

demands including the opening of the West River, and, possibly, the construction of a railway from Nanking to Peking, the line to be under British administration for a specified term of years. The railway question may require further examination before it is definitely pronounced upon, but as to the West River there can be no division of opinion. China should be told in plain words that whether she likes it or not, that important waterway must without further delay be opened to foreign trade and navigation and that the transit pass clauses of the treaty must be honestly observed. The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce has recently, it has been stated in a contemporary, addressed the dymen of the diplomatic body on these questions, which we think was a mistake in policy, for the co-operative system of Peking seldom results in anything tangible, while it everybody's business becoming no one's, besides which the action of the Chamber looks like helping on the decadence of British influence in China, of which we have heard so much of late and which is so painfully apparent. British influence must have sunk low indeed if the Chamber of Commerce in a British colony has to carry its appeals elsewhere than to the British Minister. If the action taken has the desired result, however, and the West River is opened, the colony will have cause for thankfulness; but we trust that while the diplomatic body is discussing the question the British representative individually will take the matter up firmly and energetically and receive such support from the home Government as to cause his demands to be promptly complied with.

The silk export of Japan was delivered in New York on the 2nd instant.

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